

stands by it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman."

On November 11, Veterans Day, many celebrations will be held to honor those who have served this great country. We will honor them and applaud their efforts because they are not "summer soldiers" or "sunshine patriots," but instead they answered the call in many of our Nation's most turbulent times.

At one such event, the Rabun County Chamber of Commerce will honor hundreds of veterans, spouses, and widows/widowers for their service to our Nation. This will be the 11th annual Veteran's Appreciation Dinner, and I believe it is a great testament to the patriotism and love for country that these chamber members have worked so hard to make this event possible. Veterans of every conflict from World War II to Iraq and Afghanistan are expected to attend.

As a marine, I understand how much of a sacrifice it is to serve one's country in the Armed Forces. I know that the many veterans, who will be honored in Rabun County and all across this country, did not join up to be heroes or win medals. Instead, they heard the call of a nation, and they bravely answered. Over the past century, the United States has repeatedly faced overwhelming odds as it has fought to protect liberty at home as well as abroad. Our thanks and gratitude will never be enough to repay the debt this nation owes to all our veterans, but we gratefully offer it anyway.

Because of their service and the grace of God, this country remains the greatest nation on Earth. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring our Nation's veterans as well as the wonderful members of the Rabun County Chamber of Commerce and all who are honoring those who served.

#### HONORING EL PASO VETERANS

### HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, November 7, 2009*

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor our El Paso area veterans. Our nation joins together annually on November 11 to honor our men and women who have served in uniform for their service and for their sacrifices. From speeches to ceremonies, the voices of Americans join in tribute to all veterans, from the patriots who fought for our freedom in the Revolutionary War to the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines who are serving today in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world.

It is critical that our support for veterans goes beyond words; we must honor those who have served with our actions. As a Vietnam veteran, I came to office knowing that one of my highest duties would be to improve the lives of all of our veterans, particularly those whom I have the privilege to represent here in Congress.

El Paso is a community which embraces our nation's military forces and the families who support them. El Pasoans have demonstrated our support for veterans and the soldiers who live and work on Fort Bliss in many ways, from a new USO center and another in the works, to an annual Freedom Fiesta. Perhaps the most important development for El Paso

veterans is the establishment of a new joint Army and Veterans Administration, VA, medical center complex. To meet the needs of the historic expansion of Fort Bliss and the growing number of veterans, these new facilities will bring care to all generations, helping ensure that all veterans get the care that they need and deserve.

Congress has greatly expanded veterans benefits in the last three years, passing historic increases in VA spending. Congress also enacted a new GI Bill to provide a full four-year college education to every military member who served on active duty since September 11, 2001. And Congress added funds to improve the VA's claims processing and decrease wait times for all veterans.

Our veterans swore an oath to serve and defend our nation. They backed this oath with their actions, and in some cases their lives. Our country owes these brave men and women, not just our pledge to honor that service, but tangible benefits which reflect their sacrifices to ensure we remain strong, secure and free.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, November 7, 2009*

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, on November 2, 2009, I missed rollcall votes 832, 833, and 834 to attend parent teacher conferences for my two sons. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on each of those votes.

#### HONORING WILLIAM AVERY

### HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, November 7, 2009*

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of William Avery, former Governor and Congressman from the state of Kansas. Governor Avery passed away November 4th at the age of 98 in his home state that he served in so many ways. Prior to his passing, he was the oldest living former member of Congress. A lifelong Kansan, Governor Avery deserves to be celebrated as a fine public servant and a good man.

A native of Wakefield, Kansas, he returned to the family farm after graduating from the University of Kansas. Then, Governor Avery did what many young men of his generation did. He left the family farm to serve his country in World War II as a pilot. This would be only the first act of service in what would prove to be a distinguished career serving the people of not only Kansas, but the nation.

Following his service on his local school board, Governor Avery served four years in the Kansas House of Representatives. This preceded his decade long career representing Kansas in the House of Representatives. Governor Avery then added to his already impressive resume by becoming Kansas' 37th Governor serving in 1965 and '66. While he served only one, two-year term, Governor Avery made a series of indelible marks on the cultural and political landscape of Kansas.

Governor Avery would see his political career come to a final close following an election loss to Bob Dole in a GOP Senatorial primary.

Today, we see an increasing number of public officials who have lost touch with their constituencies. They move to Washington or their respective state capitals and become someone other than the person who was originally elected. Governor Avery was certainly not one of those men. He was simply a farmer and rancher that was entrusted with providing for the wellbeing of his state and nation. Public servants would do well to use this man as a model for their own service. A true man of the people whose heart stayed on the farm on which he was raised. Yet unselfish enough to leave to serve his state and nation when called upon to do so.

A statesman and a gentleman who pursued the right ends regardless of their popularity, Governor Avery would have undoubtedly had a lifelong political career had he focused on the politically expedient choices rather than the choices that would benefit Kansas. That type of courage is, unfortunately, often a rarity in today's leadership. Yes, the family and friends of Governor Avery have lost an important part of their lives. But everyone who has ever held an elected office in this nation has lost a role model of the highest caliber.

My thoughts and prayers are with the family of Governor Avery during this time of mourning. His children William Avery, Jr., Brad Avery, Barbara Avery, and Sue Avery along with their families have much to be proud of. I am thankful for his service and honored to call him my fellow Kansan.

#### H.R. 3854: SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING AND INVESTMENT ACT

### HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, November 7, 2009*

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I support our Nation's small business and the passage of the "Small Business Financing and Investment Act," H.R. 3854.

Small businesses play an integral role in the United States economy. Small businesses employ more than half of all workers in the private sector and generate 60 to 80 percent of new jobs in this country. The small business financing and lending programs improved by this bill would help small businesses not only survive the current downturn, but help them to expand and create new jobs.

Last month, I brought more than 50 high-tech small business owners to Washington to discuss the issues facing their businesses. Many of these small business owners told me about the struggles they face in finding credit and investment funding, which they need to maintain and expand their businesses. They talked about how reluctant banks were to lend to small businesses in these difficult economic times. This bill would help those small business owners by extending key provisions from the Recovery Act passed earlier this year. First, the legislation would aid small businesses by eliminating fees on Small Business Administration, SBA, loans, in order to make these loans more affordable for small businesses. The bill further would assist these small businesses by providing a Federal guarantee of certain loans, to encourage local